

is controlled by political, industrial accident commissions; the next largest group of sick children controlled by boards of education or official public health bodies, whichever wins out in the present mad scramble for this control; while other large groups are cared for as employees of government, as members of hospital associations, fraternal bodies, and what not.

From a purely selfish standpoint, there is nothing in the situation discouraging to physicians, but as citizens interested in the health and welfare of mankind, there is much that is discouraging.

CAN THE WHITE RACE POPULATE THE TROPICS?

The Time Clock of Eternity

One great trouble with many of our conclusions, statistics and "facts" of other kinds, about medical health and otherwise, is our lack of appreciation of the time clock of Eternity, and our faulty comparisons with human measurements of time. We do not, of course, know the unit of measurement of Eternity's time clock, but there is much to indicate that its second hand, or smallest division, is measured in generations or even thousands of years. We do know that many of our calculations of "facts," progress, and what not are arrived at by the assumption that our puny little man made watches compare second for second with Eternity's timepiece. The faulty man-made conclusions based upon such a ridiculous assumption are exceedingly numerous and of great variety. Only one will be mentioned here and that is, the influence of the tropics upon health and longevity. In no other controversial health subject are there greater differences of opinions.

Many enthusiasts believe that because scientifically applied methods will increase the saving and prolongation of life, therefore, presto, the white man can and is successfully populating the tropics. In like manner, many conclude that because some babies of the Caucasian races born in the tropics live out their allotted lives and that there are some instances where the race has been perpetuated for two, three, or even a half-dozen generations, therefore, again, presto, the white races can populate the tropics. And so on et cetera ad infinitum.

None of these conclusions takes Eternity's time into consideration. We don't live long enough to know what will happen in a score of generations. Looking backward as far as history will permit us to see, we find little consolation for believing that the white races will ever, or can successfully colonize the tropics. Man is, of course, the most adaptable of all beings and living things, but it has not been shown that he is in an entirely separate category.

Measurements of the influence of the tropics on things zoological and botanical that are exotic in the tropics can be easily calculated by our man-made measures of time, and in such measurements we find nothing to encourage the belief that life exotic to the tropics can be successfully propagated there in perpetuity.

SOME BOARDS OF HEALTH PRACTICE PUBLIC HEALTH ONLY: SOME COVER THE WHOLE FIELD OF THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

(Read, approved and ordered published by the Executive Committee of the C. M. A.)

We would like to call to the particular attention of physicians the following abstracts of a report by the health office of Indiana (Indiana Medical Journal, April, 1924):

"Every department head and subordinate who comes in contact with the public in the many and varied ways constantly urges and endeavors to teach the public to consult a physician in any and all matters pertaining to the treatment of disease, or as to advice concerning physical welfare. I venture to say there is no other group in the state of Indiana, the organized medical societies not excepted, who are so constantly and persistently and intelligently engaged in an effort to have the public understand that medical matters should be referred only to competent and trained medical men."

Think that over. No wonder that health officer secures the co-operation of the physicians of his community. Compare that sane service policy with some reports of other health boards and make your own deductions as to who will serve best, not only the physicians, but particularly the people of the commonwealth.

"The State Board of Health is rated 100 per cent in membership in the county and state medical society; that is, so far as heads of divisions and departments are concerned. And these heads of departments and divisions, with the secretary and assistant secretary, seek every opportunity possible to meet with, and to discuss with medical societies matters pertaining to public health education. We are constantly referring people to physicians, not only by letter, but by personal contact here at the office. You probably have no idea of the number of inquiries coming by letter from over the state and coming in the form of personal interviews from people in and near Indianapolis as to competent physicians and specialists. In every case we seek to refer them to men of ability and experience in the communities from which the inquiries come."

Another highly commendable feature and one showing that, because the department is limiting its practice to a great specialty, the health officer still holds himself a supporter of the ideals, ethics, and practices of a great physician.

"Dr. McKane, at the head of the Tuberculosis Division, prior to October 1 of last year, covered practically every county in Indiana holding meetings in rural schoolhouses, as well as in the cities and towns, giving addresses on the prevention of tuberculosis, and carried with him a public health exhibit, moving picture films, moving picture lantern and operator, and with a truck so equipped that moving pictures could be given in rural school buildings with the electric current generated by the motor of the truck. . . . Since October 1, Dr. McKane has been head of the newly organized Division of Communicable Diseases, with Dr. Oilar in that division as epidemiologist, and both these men, not only take advantage of every opportunity they can, but are constantly making opportunities for talking before public meetings on the prevention of communicable diseases."

There are still a few boards of health that keep the highly specialized and difficult medical work with tuberculosis in the hands of non-medical persons. No, we are not prepared to answer the *why* so frequently asked.